



United States Department of Agriculture

(OCTOBER 12, 2013) ACTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER SECRETARY DOUG O'BRIEN OUTLINES OPTIONS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY THE SHUTDOWN

Starting on October 1, 2013, the operational funding lapsed for the Rural Housing Service (RHS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. At the same time, funding for many other activities of the Federal government also lapsed. This loss of Federal funding has affected Federal employees, Federal contractors and their employees, as well as individuals who directly and indirectly receive income as a result of such funding. Impacted Federal agencies and private entities have been forced to furlough or otherwise stop payments to many individuals. These affected individuals, through no fault of their own, are now forced to find a way to meet their ongoing financial obligations. In some instances these are the same individuals who have already lost pay due to recent sequestration related furloughs.

In response to this situation, RHS would like to clarify the following regarding its single family housing direct and guaranteed housing programs:

- **DIRECT LOANS.** With respect to single family housing direct loans issued by RHS, loan servicing options are available, including payment moratorium plans, which could help borrowers affected by the current Federal government shutdown. We recommend that, once RHS has appropriations to restart operations, direct loan borrowers that are financially affected by the Federal government shutdown and need assistance contact the RHS office listed in the loan documents.
- **GUARANTEED LOANS.** RHS expects its guaranteed lenders to make every effort to communicate and work with affected borrowers, including by considering such actions as extending forbearance and other loan servicing options, and waiving late fees, consistent with the applicable servicing policies of the specific lender.

If you have questions regarding your direct or guaranteed RHS housing loan, please contact RHS at <http://rdhomeloans.usda.gov/index.html> or 1-800-414-1226 once the Federal government shutdown ends.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).